# Before the DOCKET FILE COPY PRIGINAL FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554 JUL 7 2000 \*\*DERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

In the Matter of )

Numbering Resource Optimization )

CC Docket No. 99-200

# **EMERGENCY PETITION FOR PARTIAL STAY**

SBC Communications Inc, the Association for Local Telecommunications Services (ALTS) and NEXTLINK Communications Inc. request the immediate stay of that provision of the Commission's Report and Order<sup>1</sup> which limits the period for which telephone numbers can be reserved for designated customer assignment to 45 days, in order to allow the Commission to fully consider the forthcoming recommendations of the North American Numbering Council (NANC) relating to the imposition of fees for extensions of the reserve period.<sup>2</sup> Unless a stay is granted until this issue is resolved, customer confusion and irreparable harm will be the consequence.

As the Commission reflected, "[a] fee on *reserved number* extensions balances a specific customer's desire to reserve access to certain numbers against society's cost of having to use additional NANP resources in order to meet the needs of subscribers of non-reserved numbers."<sup>3</sup> It was for this reason that the Commission requested the NANC reconsider its position on this

<sup>3</sup> *Id*.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *In the Matter of Number Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200, released March 31, 2000. (Report and Order)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Report and Order, para. 25

issue and determine whether a meaningful economic fee structure could be developed<sup>4</sup>. Assuming such a fee structure is developed, the Commission committed it would "reconsider our current position prohibiting the grant of any extensions for *reserved numbers*."<sup>5</sup>

The NANC has not made its recommendation to the Commission, nor is it likely to do so before this fall. If the 45-day limitation does go into effect and subsequent action is taken by the Commission allowing the extension of the 45-day reserve period, the impact on individual customers would be extremely disruptive. Subscribers, including governmental entities and businesses, who would have paid a fee in order to retain crucial telephone numbers beyond 45 days, will have had no opportunity to do so. The specific sequentially assigned numbers themselves which are currently reserved to these entities are essential to their operations and growth plans. Any lapse between the termination of the 45-day reserve period and that time when the Commission might permit the customer to "extend" the reservation will result in the loss of an irreplaceable resource, i.e., the specific numbers initially reserved to the customer.

Since the Report and Order requires carriers to assign all available numbers prior to opening the next thousands-block many, if not all, of these previously reserved numbers will be reassigned

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In filing for this stay, the parties take no position either, collectively or individually, as to whether the granting of extensions for fees is appropriate or whether a meaningful fee structure can be developed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Unless a stay is granted, numbers reserved as of the effective date of the Report and Order will be reclassified as available on or about September 1, 2000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Report and Order, para. 244.

to other customers by the time of the Commission's ruling on the NANC recommendation, precluding the possibility of the previous customers reestablishing their reservation if extensions are subsequently permitted. Clearly, a stay under these circumstances is in the public interest.

Moreover, the granting of this stay will not result in harm to any interested party. The purpose of the stay is simply to maintain the status quo pending a resolution of a matter recognized by the Commission to be outstanding.

If there is an advantage to allowing extensions as the Commission appears to believe, that advantage will be destroyed if a stay is not immediately granted. Such action by the Commission cannot be delayed. Since carriers must proceed with implementing the Report and Order, they soon will be notifying their subscribers of the 45-day limitation. This notification must begin no later than August 1, 2000. If the Commission were to grant this stay after the customer notification, it will only compound customer confusion. Customers making decisions in reliance on the carriers' initial notice of the 45-day period are likely to feel whipsawed by a stay.

#### Conclusion

For these reasons, the parties strongly urges the Commission to immediately stay its imposition of the 45-day reserve period, until such time as it resolves the issue related to the imposition of fees for the extension of this period. To fail to grant this stay or to delay this action will have an irreparable impact on customers in derogation of the Commission's intent.

Respectfully Submitted,

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Lacretia Hill, do hereby certify that on this 7th day of July, 2000, a copy of the foregoing "Motion" was served by U.S. first class mail, postage paid, to the parties listed on the attached sheets.

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